(c) what is the outcome of India's efforts to solve the problem of shortage in supply of arms, defence equipment and spares already contracted from the Soviet Union; and

(d) whether Government are contracting directly the Republics which were so far part of the Soviet in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The country's defence requirements are met from diverse sources abroad and through indigenous Industry.

(b) During discussions between the PM and the French Persident, it was agreed that there was good scope for mutually beneficial cooperation in Defence between France and India.

(c) and (d) During External Affairs Minister's visit to Moscow in November, 91, he was assured by President Gorbachev and other senior Soviet leaders that the USSR stands by all its commitments to India. This was confirmtd by President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation.

Applications for deep sea fishing from Andhra Pradesh

2123. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications from Andhra Pradesh for deep sea fishing pending for approval; and

(b) since how long these are pending and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Forty six applications from entrepreneurs in Andhra Pradesh for deep sea fishing through operation of chartered foreign fishing vessels are pending since August, 1989. As the Charter Policy is under review, final decision on these applications is yet to be taken.

Deep sea fishing

2124. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated 18th November, 1991 captioned "Move to treat deep-sea fishinfi at par with shipping settled";

(b) whether a new comprehensive rehabilitation proposal for deep-sea fishing industry has been cleared at the meeting of the impowered Committee;

(c) what are the main points of distinction between the new package and the rehabilitation package already in force;

(d) the number of units which have accepted the old package; and

(e) what steps are being taken to extend the terms of the new package to all units who have been declared in need for rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to the said news item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated November, 18, 1991.

(b) No new rehabilitation proposal for deep sea fishing industry has been considered by the Empowered Committee. The rehabilitation scheme currently in force for the deep sea fishing industry is the one which was announced by the Government of India on April 4, 1991.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 52 fishing companies have evinced interest in the rehabilitation scheme. Of this, 32 companies have submitted rehabilitation proposals/or otherwise complied with the preconditions of the rehabilitation scheme. Of this, the Governmtnt of India has approved proposals in respect of 30 Companies.

(e) As mentioned above, there is no new package of rehabilitation announced by the Government.

Food Processing unit at Panniti, South Arcot, Tamil Nadu

2125. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has any proposal under its consideration to commence a food processing unit at Panniti, South Arcot District in Tamil Nadu, to preserve the Jackfruit grown in that area in plenty;

(b) if so, when Government propose to execute the same; and

(c) if not, whether the Centre would facilitate loans to individuals to set up jackfruit processing unit at Panniti?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have formulated various Plan schemes to extend financial assistance to the State Government undertakings, Public sector undertakings and Cooperatives etc., for increasing the present processing capacity setting up of food processing industries and for modernisation of these industries. This assistance is given on the proposals received through the State Governments. However, Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not have any scheme to provide loans to individuals.

2126. [*Transferred to the 17th December*, 1991]

Market share of companies in aerated bevarages/tetrapack fruit drinks

2127. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the market share of the various Companies who make aerated beverages and tetrapack fruit drinks;

(b) what steps Government have taken in restricting the growing monopoly of certain companies so far;

(c) whether any notices have been issued to any company for having a dominant market share and, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the MRTPC has been investigating any complaints against the large Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Prior approval of the Government under MRTP Act, 1969 for setting or expansion of undertakings for manufacture of aerated/tetrapack fruit drinks is not required, as the provisions of Section 20, 21 and 22 of the Act stand deleted in terms of the MRTP (Amendment) Ordinance dated 27-9-1991. However, the MRTP Commission, being a quasi-judicial body, is empowered to take necessary action in the matter of monopolistic trade practices under the provisions of the Act.

(c) No default notice was issued to any company for registration as dominant undertaking in aerated beverages/fruit drinks, nor was any company/undertaking registered as such under the MRTP Act. Further, the question of issuing a default notice on that account does not arise since the relevant provisions relating to registration under the MRTP Act, 1969 stand deleted.

(d) The MRTP Commission has reported that it has not been investigation any complaint relating to monopolistic trade practice against large company engaged in aerated beverages/tetrapack fruit drinks. However, enquiries relating to restrictive trade practice/unfair trade practice against some soft drink manufacturers are in progress before the Commission.